



1884-39D (81841.0019)  
Response Under 37 C.F.R. 1.116  
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

George Shibata et al.

Serial No: 09/335,363

Filed: June 17, 1999

For: SAMPLE LOADING AND HANDLING INTERFACE TO  
MULTIPLE CHEMISTRY ANALYZERS

Art Unit: 1743

Examiner: Bex Patricia K.

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TC 1743

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Commissioner for Patents  
Washington D.C. 20231, on  
October 30, 2002  
Date of Deposit  
Wei-Ning Yang, Reg. No. 38,690  
Name  
10/30/02  
Signature Date

Box AMENDMENT AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Transmitted herewith is an amendment in the above-identified application.

☒ No additional fee is required.

The fee has been calculated as shown below:

	(Col. 1) CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT	(Col. 2) HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	(Col. 3) PRESENT EXTRA*	LG/SM \$ ENTITY FEE	ADD'L FEE DUE
TOTAL CLAIMS FEE	34	34 **	0	LG=\$18 SM=\$9	\$ [FEE] \$ 0
INDEPENDENT CLAIMS FEE	2	3 ***	0	LG=\$84 SM=\$42	\$ [FEE] \$ 0
FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIMS				LARGE ENTITY FEE = \$280 SMALL ENTITY FEE = \$140	\$ [FEE]
				TOTAL	\$ 0

\* If the entry in Col. 1 is less than the entry in Col. 2, write "0" in Col. 3.

\*\* If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 20, write "20" in this space.

\*\*\* If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 3, write "3" in this space. The "Highest Number Previously Paid For" (Total or Independent) is the highest number found from the equivalent box on Col. 1 of a prior amendment or the number of claims originally filed.

- ☐ A check in the amount of \$ 0 to cover the additional claims fee is enclosed. **A copy of this sheet is enclosed.**
- ☐ A check in the amount of \$ 0 to cover the extension fee is enclosed. **A copy of this sheet is enclosed.**
- ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies of fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1314. **A copy of this sheet is enclosed.**
- ☒ Any filing fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 for the presentation of extra claims
- ☒ Any patent application processing fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17

Respectfully submitted,  
HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.

Date: October 30, 2002

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*A. Giamerice*  
#171D  
11.2.02

PATENT  
1884-39D (81841.0019)  
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

George Shibata et al.

Serial No: 09/335,363

Filed: June 17, 1999

For: SIMPLE LOADING AND HANDLING  
INTERFACE TO MULTIPLE  
CHEMISTRY ANALYZERS

Art Unit: 1743

Examiner: Bex, Patricia W.

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<i>[Signature]</i>	10/30/02
Signature	Date

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

Box AMENDMENT AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action dated August 30, 2002, please amend the above-referenced application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace the text of claims 1 and 20 with the following text:

1. (Three Times Amended) A clinical chemistry system comprising:
- a storing station that receives and stores a plurality of primary sample tubes;
  - a sampling station including a sample probe that draws a volume of sample from a primary sample tube and transfers the volume to a secondary tube;
  - a carriage mechanism, comprising a gripper that grips one of the plurality of primary sample tubes, lifts it, and transports the primary sample tube to the sampling station and returns the primary sample tube from the sampling station to the storing station;
  - a first and a second secondary tube transfer station, respectively, for coupling to first and second analyzers, the first and second sample tube transfer stations

*2002/11/2*  
*1743*  
*1*